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Grove-Evergreen Will Publish Philby Memoirs as Red Agent

By HENRY RAYMONT

Grove Press has obtained the American book and magazine rights to the memoirs of H. A. Philby, the former British counter-intelligence official who spied for the Soviet Union.

Fred Jordan, vice president of Grove Press, said yesterday that the Philby memoirs would be published in May or June under the title "My Secret War."

Grove Press, in acquiring the 85,000-word manuscript, outbid several other major publishing houses, according to Perry H. Knowlton, vice president of Collins-Knowlton-Wing, the literary agency that handled the American rights for the book. Neither Mr. Jordan nor Mr. Knowlton disclosed the amount of the bid, but other publishing sources said it was more than \$50,000.

The Grove Press bid covers paperback rights as well as hardcover editions and magazine serialization. Excerpts from the forthcoming book will appear in the April and May issues of the Evergreen Review, an avant-garde literary magazine published by Grove Press.

Paris-Match, the French magazine, which acquired world rights for the book directly from Mr. Philby, is understood to have expected to get at least

\$200,000 for the American publication rights. The deal with Mr. Philby was concluded earlier this month by Jean-Paul Oliver, editor of Paris-Match, who subsequently asked Mr. Knowlton to offer the book to American publishers.

"We are convinced that this is the spy story of the century," Mr. Jordan said in an interview yesterday. "There are so many books being written about Mr. Philby that we think it's important that somebody should print his own story."

The memoirs, Mr. Jordan said, offer an account of the 30 years Mr. Philby served as a key official in Britain's intelligence network while acting as a Soviet undercover agent. But he declined to give any details in the book.

The Philby manuscript was offered to The Sunday Times of London late last year, but the newspaper turned it down, fearing possible prosecution under the British Government's Official Secrets Act. Earlier, the British Government had rejected an informal suggestion by Mr. Philby that he would suppress the book in exchange for the release of Peter and Helen Kroger, two convicted Russian spies now serving 20-year terms in prison in Britain.